

8 April 1960

Honorable Chester Bowles
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Chat:

Thanks for your letter of April 4. I am sorry we didn't get better coordinated views to you earlier on your Saturday Evening Post article. There is, as you say, a healthy degree of divergence on matters relating to Communist China's prospects in our organization.

I have read your Foreign Affairs article with the greatest of interest and find myself most sympathetic to your proposals. I have always felt that our rigid adherence to the "one China" position was fraught with grave danger over the long run and that conversely a positive policy of bringing forward and building up an independent republic on Taiwan was not only sound

As you probably know, I have been severely castigated in certain rightwing periodicals for this view, so I would appreciate your treating this as a matter of confidence.

The only area in which I find myself inclined to disagree with your estimate of the situation is with respect to the balance between external expansion and internal development in Red China though I wouldn't trust them as far as I could throw them with respect to Southeast Asia, Nepal, etc. I believe that they believe they can solve their food-population balance by intensive mechanization of agriculture in North China and a tremendous investment in fertilizer production and intensive cultivation in the areas not susceptible to mechanization. They also appear to count heavily on developing in the next seven years sufficient industrial exports to enable them to finance food imports from such natural rice granaries as Burma and Thailand. Only time will tell whether these hopes of theirs are soundly based, and there will always remain, as you point out, a grave danger that if they fail they will turn to aggressive expansion to get the food producing areas by force.

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Do let me know whenever we can be of assistance to you with respect to factual information.

Sincerely,



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Robert Amory, Jr.
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

P.S. I much admired your Los Angeles speech on disarmament and found nothing in it with which I differ though I am by no means an expert on the topic.

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